

# The Foggy Bottom News

Vol. 8 No. 5

## THE VOICE OF FOGGY BOTTOM

January 1964

## OBSERVATORY HILL

Mary K. Manzoli, Historian

The hill on the corner of 23rd and E Streets, where the U. S. Navy Bureau of Medicine now has quarters, was the lively site of several troop encampments in the early days of America. The location was known as Camp Hill during the 18th Century because it had been used for marshalling troops during the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Many graves -- claimed by tradition to be those of soldiers, or of dead from a disease-ridden emigrant ship -- were visible as late as 1842.

Around 1800, the knoll was also known as Windmill Hill. A prominent doctor with an eye for business, a Dr. Bruff, constructed a wind-powered grain mill on top of the hill; but the venture was not profitable and by 1812, the abandoned windmill had become a handy target for new army recruits assembled there to provide troops for the defense of Washington.

The establishment of the Naval Observatory in 1842 brought landscaping and permanent structures to the 23rd Street hill. The yellow stucco structure with the domed roof -- which still stands and is in active use by the Navy Bureau of Medicine -- was the first official structure built as a national astronomical observatory. The Observatory was located there from 1842 until 1893, when it moved to its present site: Observatory Circle on Massachusetts Avenue.

During the Civil War, Observatory Hill became a vast government stable, with an enormous mill for grinding feed on its southern slopes and large horse and mule corrals on its northern side. There were

25 portable mills, powered by eight horses each, besides a colossal haycutter which chopped up hay just as fast as an army of horses and mules could devour it. Old newspaper stories tell of tempestuous activity on this hill, as hundreds of horses and wild mules that were brought in from Kentucky were broken to saddle and bridle, usually with considerable brutality.

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      N E X T     M E E T I N G        
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MONDAY, JANUARY 27 - 8:00 P.M.  
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Pillsbury Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
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2430 K Street, N.W.  
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          P R O G R A M            
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No formal program to be presented.  
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See President's Letter for Business  
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Agenda.  
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The District Elections Board has announced the registration location for Foggy Bottom residents as the FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, which is located at 24th and N Streets. Hours for registration are from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on January 31 (Friday) and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 1 (Saturday). The same hours will be held on four succeeding weekends: February 28-29, March 6-7, March 13-14, and March 20-21. You can also register weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the District Building.

After the war, little remained to indicate such activities, except for a few shanties on the lower southern slopes of Observatory Hill where some of the human flotsam of civil war had lodged. The feed mill buildings, bought by a sharp speculator for a song, had become a storehouse for the lumber of torn-down structures. Unlike most areas of Washington, Foggy Bottom was mostly passed by in the hectic land speculation, the cheap home building and shanty-town growth that had accompanied the war-time boom in Washington. One news story of 1867 says, "The impression that this corner of the city is infested with malarious diseases seems to deter the trend of improvement in this direction". Most government barracks, stables and other structures built in the area during the war were demolished -- and their timbers were used to build houses in other parts of the city. A few were converted into dwelling houses on lots purchased or leased by the buyers of the second-hand construction materials.

The chief obstacle to improvement of the area was the canal that ran from about where Constitution Avenue is now, along the river, and up to Cumberland, Maryland. Always beset by financial difficul-

ties and facing increasing competition from the railroads, the canal company fought efforts to force improved drainage and fencing. As a result, stagnant water, occasional overflow and entrapped refuse created an atmosphere in which land development and real estate ventures -- actively going on elsewhere in the city -- did not flourish for many years.



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 \* FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION OFFICERS \*  
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President ..... William L. Simon  
 Vice President ..... Walter S. Boardman  
 Secretary ..... Evelyn H. Larson  
 Treasurer ..... Elizabeth B. Winspear  
 Executive  
 Committee ..... Mrs. Lloyd Dutch  
                                  Harriet Gruger  
                                  Alexander E. Wiskup

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

District Affairs ..... Alexander E. Wiskup  
 Membership ..... Rufus Lisle  
 Program ..... Bernice Teuteberg  
 Public Relations ..... J. C. (Pat) Patterson

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The NEWS is published monthly by the Public  
 Relations Committee. NEWS mailing address:  
 2429 Eye Street, N. W. - Telephone 333-7837 or  
 337-5816. All copy required by 10th of month.

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 \* MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE \*  
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Rufus Lisle, Chairman

F.B.R.A. CONTINUES TO GROW!

The membership rolls continue to increase as additional dues are received. However, many residents of our community undoubtedly have meant to join -- but have overlooked sending in their dues payments. It is never too late to do so.

We remind everyone in Foggy Bottom that the effectiveness and success of a neighborhood organization such as we have depends very much indeed on the size of the organization. The number of paid-up members is vital to accomplishing community projects. All projects undertaken by the Association in some way benefit everybody living in our area! Give us your support, join today .....

SPECIAL NOTICE

Effective January 15, special REDUCED membership dues are available to ALL residents of Foggy Bottom who are not yet paid members. Help to enlarge our membership roster, send your dues immediately to

Mr. Rufus Lisle  
 2525 Eye Street, N. W.  
 Washington, D. C. 20037

RENTERS: \$1.50 (For balance of current year,  
 OWNERS: \$2.50 which ends on June 30, 1964.)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Bernice Teuteberg, Chairman

At the request of the president of the Association, it has been decided that there will be no formal program at our January 25th meeting. Instead, we will devote the evening to the resolution of outstanding questions and problems -- as outlined in the Letter From The President elsewhere in this issue.

The Program Committee, as it has been previously announced, is interested in receiving suggestions or comments, at any time, to guide it in development of plans for future meetings. Now is the time for all of you having suggestions or requests for programs to speak up! The Committee will meet prior to the January 27 meeting to develop program plans and an announcement will be made at that meeting with regard to the programs for the next 6 months.

Anyone who would like to serve on the Committee is urged to contact the Chairman either at our meetings or by telephone. The number is 333-2711.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the January meeting, in addition to settling once and for all (hopefully) the question of a name-change we will discuss several other matters that concern the neighborhood and the City. On the agenda are:

Parking Lots: In the past, FBRA has opposed the opening of commercial parking lots in Foggy Bottom. But we have a shortage of parking space; the on- and off-street parking available is, at times, not adequate. New guidelines for determining the Association's action on future parking lot cases were recently decided on by the Executive Board. They will be explained and discussed.

Home Rule: Votes will be taken on the question of home rule for the District, and whether the FBRA should actively support home rule.

Channel House: The present status of the Channel House affair will be described. If any new or out-of-touch members haven't yet heard the story, we'll explain why the Association is opposing the liquor license held by this apartment building.

Integration in FB Apartment Houses: Some Association members have recently asked about the FBRA working with the managements of apartment buildings in the area in attempt to open them to all qualified applicants. While the need for action may be

Continued - Page 3



## Letter From The President - Continued

obviated by the recent ruling of the D. C. Commissioners, we will discuss this problem to determine the feelings of the membership.

If time permits, the floor will be open for any other discussions of general interest.

This meeting will provide you a special opportunity to make your views known. I urge you to attend.

William L. Simon  
President, FBRA

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## 3RD PRECINCT CRIME COUNCIL REPORT

Precinct Captain Raymond S. Pyles has returned to duty after three months leave of absence, while he attended the FBI Police Academy.

The new precinct building north of Washington Circle is now scheduled to open on June 5. No work has been started on the library proposed for construction at the same site.

Foggy Bottom's long record of no street crime was broken twice, on the same day, recently. At about 6:40 p.m. on December 3, Miss Geraldine Sheehan, of Georgetown, had her pocketbook stolen in front of 813 - 25th Street. A few minutes later, a bricklayer on the apartment house construction job north of Washington Circle was robbed at gunpoint. With both Christmas and the Winter solstice behind us, we're hoping to get through 1964 without any blotches on the record.

Here are some incidental facts about the operation of the 3rd Precinct that may be of interest:

The precinct is a large one, extending from S Street south to Constitution Avenue, and from 15th Street west to Rock Creek Park.

Two police cars patrol in the precinct, and several police dogs are now on the streets all night. (The dogs are not used, however, in Foggy Bottom.)

Housebreaking and auto theft are the two most common crimes in Foggy Bottom.

The foot patrolman usually passes your house or apartment building twice during his eight-hour tour of duty.

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## CAROLING MYSTERY SOLVED

At the December meeting, a motion was passed extending thanks to the group who strolled through the Foggy Bottom area singing carols one evening during the Christmas Season. The only trouble was that nobody knew who the carolers were.

A little sleuthing was done, and the trail led to 2417 Eye Street, where Pat McMahon and Jan Graham readily confessed responsibility for the scheme. It was told that they invited about 30 friends, who were instructed to come armed with "a good voice or enthusiasm -- and warm clothes". They provided the wassail bowl as fortification before and reward after.

We relayed to them the thanks voted by the Association, and we're glad to report that they seemed as pleased and amused by the thanks as many of their neighbors were with the caroling.

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**of Beauty**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
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POTOMAC PLAZA  
**FE 7-5067**  
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26th & N.H. Ave., N.W. Mon.-Thur. 8-5:30  
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and Water Gate Inn) Sunday 9-1:00  
50¢ OFF REGULAR PRICE WITH THIS AD!  
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Motors Steam Cleaned - Expert Simonizing!  
Only Soft Water and Clean Turkish Towels Used  
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2-29  
party rally  
for registration?



## PAT PATTERS ON.....

Bottomite Kay Speaker, 2514 K Street, was featured in a UPI Telephoto in the Washington Post (as well as newspapers across the country) in last Sunday's Outdoors section. The picture is a close-up of the attractive Kay as she appraises some of the 8 inch snow that fell unexpectedly on the ski slopes of New Hampshire last week.....

And speaking of snow, the nine or so inches we had last week helped to point up the number of the non-Washington-licensed cars that park on the streets of Foggy Bottom... something that very little can be done about, understandably, but it sure burns the residents who can't park within blocks of their own homes.....

Our advertisers, bless them, realize that the NEWS is a product of volunteer work and that we must hold regular jobs, which cuts down the amount of time we can spend on the paper. Each and every one of them cooperate to the fullest by either repeating previous copy or submitting new copy promptly -- for this we thank them.....

The Fifth Annual Photographic Salon at the Department of Commerce Building Lobby from February 5 to 9, sponsored by the Recreation Department, invites both amateur and professional shutter-bugs to exhibit their slides and/or prints. There are cash

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 \* **Top Value Liquors** \*  
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 \* Liquors - Imported Wines - Cordials \*  
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 \* PARKING NEXT DOOR \*  
 \* FE 8-4444 FE 8-4444 \*  
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 \* **THE CIRCLE THEATRE** \*  
 \* PROUDLY PRESENTS \*  
 \* JAN \*  
 \* 19-22 The Balcony PLUS The Connection \*  
 \* 23-25 The Trial PLUS The Condemned of Altona \*  
 \* 26-28 Lust For Life \*  
 \* 29 - \*  
 \* Feb. 1 The Leopard PLUS The Mondo Cane \*  
 \* FEB \*  
 \* 2-4 Trial & Error PLUS Murder, She Said \*  
 \* (See local newspapers for additions to this list) \*  
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prizes. If interested, call 234-2050, ext. 8, for the how-where-when detailed instructions.....

The Fairlington Players will hold tryouts January 6 and 7 for their late February production of "Write Me A Murder" by Frederick ("Dial M For Murder") Knott. The play calls for 5 men and 2 women. The casting call will be held at 8 p.m. in the Fairlington Administration Building, 4800 South 31st Street, in Arlington. Players president Bruce Harrison can give full information if you call him at 684-6792...

Hope that the comparatively small number of registrations for the coming elections is not a sign of an apathetic populace, but that people are waiting until the field offices open on January 31... or some are retaining voting residence in their home states..... Having never been able to vote in a Presidential election, I am eagerly looking forward to it, and hope you are too.....

It's good to see Charlie Rogers back in circulation and walking the streets of the Bottom again... really missed him while he and his wife were in Europe -- and while he was recuperating.....

Mazel Tov to Rod Collier who is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on January 18th..... Best wishes to Susan, Bob, and "Gilly" Howard, who are moving in a week or so to Frederick, Maryland so Bob won't have to commute daily to work... we'll miss them.....

A recent report from former NEWS artist-illustrator Dick Duggan says that his trip across country in his rebuilt MG was quite interesting... and the trip was made in a leisurely eight days without even a flat tire. The only problem encountered was winds in the plains states that cut gas mileage in half.....

The NEWS would appreciate very much your letting us know of any arrivals or departures of Bottomites in your block... a telephone call or a postcard will put us on the right track--even if you don't know the names of arrivals--and we can welcome them to the Bottom.... thanks for any cooperation you give us.

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 \* Phone: FE 8-3377 \*  
 \* *Marg-Ann* \*  
 \* *Beauty Salon* \*  
 \* 2428 Eye St., N.W. \*  
 \* "In Foggy Bottom" \*  
 \* Washington, D.C. \*  
 \*  \*  
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## ART EXHIBIT

The Margaret Dickey Gallery of Art, 2133 Pennsylvania Avenue, is exhibiting the "Washington Scene" until January 31. The tiny second-floor gallery has the works of a number of Washington artists in this exhibit, including Lily Spandorf (the 1963 Christmas stamp was taken from her rendition of the National Christmas Tree on the Elipse), James Cupoli, and Prentiss Taylor -- all courtesy of Franz Bader Gallery -- and Cornelia Hollander, a frequent visitor to the Bottom, Lucille D. Roberts, and Rena Watson. The Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Sunday from 2 til 5 p.m. It is closed on Monday.

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## THE GRANT SCHOOL

The public school for grades 1 through 6 serving the Foggy Bottom area is Grant School, on G Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets. It was opened in 1879 and is still going strong, although somewhat surrounded by The George Washington University.

The classes are fairly small, and are under the direction of Mr. Henry J. McConnell, the teacher-in-charge for the fifth and sixth grades; Mrs. Alice B. Flint for the third and fourth grades; and Mrs. Evelyn Gray for the first and second grades.

There is no official kindergarten but there is a pre-school class for the three to five year olds. This pre-school class is held in the mornings under the direction of Mrs. Cecilia Davis. Mrs. Davis is also in charge of the Gallinger Playground which is located adjacent to the school.

Pre-schoolers are being accepted now. If you have an eligible child and want further information, contact Mrs. Davis at the school.

The playground is supervised every school day from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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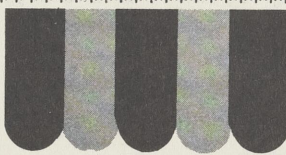
## PROBLEMS ACROSS THE RIVER, TOO

From Charlotte, North Carolina comes the following story which points up the fact that Foggy Bottom is not unique in its problems concerning construction in the area. The opening of one of Charlotte's most plush dining spots brought the item to our attention.

The dining spot was opened in Charlotte because a round little man (who looks somewhat like a miniature of the late film actor Edward Arnold), caterer to embassies and Washington celebrities for three decades, decided to return to the South after being displaced when Theodore Roosevelt Bridge became a fact. The sprawling approaches and cloverleaves ate up the parking areas of Arlington Towers, where Jimmy Kanakos held lease to banquet facilities.

"My lawyer", said Jimmy, "hadn't built in any protection for me in the leasing arrangement, but people can be fair. I didn't have a legal claim. Nothing. But the Arlington Towers people know I take a beating and they pay me \$40,000."

Mr. Kanakos, a familiar face to many Bottomites, took his \$40,000 and more south after screening the possibilities. His proudest possession is a 100 percent rating certificate given him after an inspection by the Arlington Health Department. He figures that there are more astronauts in training than there are restauranteurs ever receiving such a rating.

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FEderal 3-4768

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\*\*\*\*\*



## GUY MASON RECREATION CENTER

The Guy Mason Recreation Center is named for the late Guy Mason, former District Commissioner. It was during his term of office that the Recreation Board was created, after the coordination of the Playground Department of the District Government and the Community Centers of the Board of Education. The Board was created in April 1942. Since that time the Guy Mason Center has participated in many Recreation Department activities and now has adult classes in a number of activities going on.

Although classes started last week, according to the Director of the Center - Mrs. Anna T. Brown - you can still enlist in the classes of art, ballet, basic ceramics, bridge, china painting, lapidary, sewing, silver jewelry, slimnastics, weaving, conversational French, Russian, Spanish, etc.

The Guy Mason Center is under the Recreation Department and the information is published about it in the NEWS because it is the closest Center to our area. It is located at 3600 Calvert Street, N.W. and the telephone number is 333-2412. If you would like more information about what goes on at the Center, much of it free to the public - some of it with small fees - call Mrs. Brown at the above number. The Center considers activities not on its schedule now if enough people are interested. Suggest your principal interest to Mrs. Brown if it is not listed.

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## RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Miss Lyn Bers, Information Specialist for the D. C. Recreation Department, has sent us an extremely informative little publication called "Do You Know". It is published monthly and lists the coming events in the Metropolitan area. We will publish some of the events in the NEWS each month. However, you can subscribe to this publication (\$1.00) and get the information of daily activities for each month. Call Miss Bers at ADams 4-2050 for more details.

The following Special Events, all FREE to the public, have seating on a first come-first served basis.

Sunday, January 19: CONCERT, Catholic University Trio, Music Building Auditorium, Catholic U. 3 PM. LECTURE, "Paul Gauguin In Tahiti", Richard Field guest lecturer, National Gallery of Art, 4 PM.

Wednesday, January 22: LECTURE, "The Art and Culture of Denmark", Carlo Christensen, Cultural Attache of Denmark, guest speaker. This program, by the Institute of Life-time Learning, is aimed at retired and senior citizens and will be held at 10:00 AM at the Dupont Theatre.

Friday, January 24: CONCERT, U. S. Navy Band, Departmental Auditorium, 8:30 PM

Sunday, January 26: RECITAL, Yvonne Easter, soprano, Corcoran Gallery of Art, 2:30 PM. RECITAL, Elizabeth Mannion, vocalist; Charles Crowder, pianist, National Gallery of Art, 8:00 PM.

Friday, January 31: OPERA, "Don Pasquale", fully staged, Recreation Department's Washington Civic Opera Association, Dr. Frederick Fall, conductor; Roosevelt Auditorium, 8:30 PM. CONCERT, U. S. Navy Band, Departmental Auditorium, 8:30 PM.

As previously stated, there are many other events listed in "Do You Know" which may be of interest to Bottomites, many of them free. Check with the Department for further information.

## MELLONAS

2514 L Street, N.W. FEderal 3-2720

Foggy Bottom's  
Oldest Neighborhood Restaurant and Bar



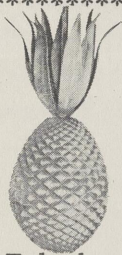
## TREASURER'S HOME RANSACKED

On December 18, 1963 the Snow's Court home of the Association treasurer, Betty Winspear, was broken into and a television set and AM-FM radio were the major items taken. About \$17 in the Association's Petty Cash, and several dollars of Betty's personal cash, were overlooked, although the thieves made a thorough search of the premises. After breaking in the front door (ruining both the door and the lock) it appears that the blinds and drapes were systematically drawn to avoid detection from the outside and a search of dresser-drawers, closets, etc. was made throughout the house. No effort was made to place things back in order; rather articles were strewn to all available floor space. Their exit was made via the back door and patio - probably only a very short time before Betty came home from work. A call to the police was promptly answered by #3 Precinct -- and although nothing has turned up to date, they are still investigating.

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## COLLER'S LIQUORS SCENE OF PARTY

On December 29, 1963 Collier's Liquors hosted one of the area's most expensive holiday parties. The unannounced soiree came about when the "guests" -- still unbeknown to owner Harry Collier and police -- entered the store by breaking through a wall in the rear of the building. Besides awarding themselves a "door (or wall) prize" of a considerable amount of cash, the uninvited guests enjoyed, presumably, an undetermined amount of the store's product and had sufficient time to search for particular brands that appealed to them. No evidence has been turned up to ascertain the exact time of the party -- and it's possible that it was a long one since the store was closed at midnight on Saturday and not re-entered (by an authorized person) until 9:30 Monday morning. Whether they be good, bad, or indifferent -- it is Harry's request that he be invited to any party he plays host to in the future.



# The Golden Pineapple

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## UNITED NATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Through the Washington Division of The American Association for the United Nations there is being offered sponsorship of a group in the Foggy Bottom area for discussion in this on-going program - now in its tenth year - concerning decisions which are to be made by Americans as a nation and people in the present world situation.

A list of eight suggested topics for discussion includes IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE--Who's winning? CASTRO'S CUBA--Challenge to the Americas? and WORLD COMMUNISM TODAY--How Great the Danger? Information on each topic is provided by a Fact Sheet kit which helps give a mutual background of information for discussion. The kits can be obtained (at the nominal cost of \$1.50 each) from the nonpartisan educational agency, The Foreign Policy Association.

The group is open to all persons in the area who are interested. If the number is too large for convenience, it can be divided into smaller groups. Baby sitter problems may be solved by inviting the group to meet in your own home. It is emphasized that the discussion is for both men and women.

For more information telephone or write the volunteer group organizer in Foggy Bottom, Mr. Burton T. Wilson, 2401 H Street, Apt. 611 -- 338-8740.

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## FROM OUR CHURCHES

## CONCORDIA HAS "FACE LIFTING"

The Concordia United Church of Christ, at 20th and G Streets, has been at its present location for more than 130 years. In that time it has seen the many changes within the community and has been a part of most of those changes. Always anxious to be identified with the progressive developments of the community it is presently undergoing an extensive "face lifting". Its exterior is being painted to conform to the "decor" of surrounding buildings. Interior decorating and changes are next in order.

Several months ago Concordia completed a fact finding self-study and is beginning to structure a program of activities that reflect the implementation of that study. A midweek church night with a Bible study conducted by the pastor, Dr. Henry C. Koch, features these evening gatherings. A monthly public forum at which current issues are discussed offers an opportunity to consider the relevance of the Gospel to modern life.

Concordia is the only church in the District which conducts services regularly in the German language. These are held on each first Sunday of the month at 9:45 A.M. The pastor, who has traveled extensively in Germany and did post-war rehabilitation in Europe, preaches on these occasions. Regular Sunday services are at 11:00 A.M.



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## COLLER'S LIQUORS

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## ST. STEPHEN'S HAS FAIR AND EXHIBIT

We, of St. Stephen Martyr Church, 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, were very pleased to greet so many of our good neighbors accepting our invitation to visit our beautiful new Church on December 22nd when we had "Open House". Those who could not be with us on that day are welcome to come any time at their leisure to our Church. St. Stephen's is open every day from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. All are welcome.

All are invited to come to our Liturgical Fair and Exhibit. On January 18th and 19th, the beginning of the Church Unity Octave, St. Stephen's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine with other Parish Organizations will have a Fair and Exhibit with a display of 24 poster size catechetical visual aids, the new vestments, books, paperbacks — many other items. From 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Our Annual Lady of Lourdes Novena will be held February 3rd to 11th. Novena Prayers will be said following the 6:30 and 7:30 Masses and at 7:45 p.m. Come! and Pray with us.

Peace and Happiness throughout the New Year!

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Denges  
Pastor

St. Stephen Martyr Church

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